

Quarries' Procession

A 40 bar reel for four couples in a longwise set. For compactness, 1st man is sometimes abbreviated as 1M in the description below and similarly for the other dancers.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st and 4th couples cross right hand, then 1st and 4th women cast in one place as 1st and 4th men cast in two places, passing right shoulder. 1st and 4th couples will be diagonally opposite their partners for most of the dance.
- 5-8 1st and 4th couples set then dance half left hands across ending in balance in line position on the diagonal (a St Andrew's Cross formation) retaining left hands in the centre and taking right hands with the corners: 1M with 2M, 1W with 3W, 4M with 3M, 4W with 2W.
- 9-12 All balance in line. Then 1st and 4th couples half turn corners right hand, releasing hands quickly. 2nd and 3rd couples dance 1/8th anticlockwise and take left hands across in the centre while 1st and 4th couples dance 1/8th clockwise outside them ready to take right hands in a St George's Cross formation. This has 1M, 2W, 3M, 1W down the centre line and 4M, 2M, 3W, 4W across the middle line between 2nd and 3rd places.
- 13-16 All balance in line. Then 1st couple half turn 2nd woman and 3rd man right hand into promenade hold with this person on their right. Meanwhile 4th couple half turn 2nd man and 3rd woman right hand and dance up/down the sides to lines across. End with 2M, 1M+2W, 4W in a line across at the top half way between 1st and 2nd places and 4M, 1W+3M, 2W in a line across at the bottom half way between 3rd and 4th places. 1st couple are facing their 3rd corners (2nd man and, 3rd woman respectively).
- 17-20 1st couple with their promenading partners dance half a right shoulder reel of three across and end facing towards their 4th corners (the next corner anticlockwise). 1st couple need to keep the loop fairly small. The reels should be danced half a place in from the ends of the set, ie between 1st and 2nd places and between 3rd and 4th places.
- 21-24 1st couple with their promenading partners each dance left hands across with the new corner person (3rd woman and 2nd man) in 2nd and 3rd places. Their old promenading partners (2nd woman and 3rd man) spiral out to the sides ready for the next reel while 1st couple retain left hands with their new partners, turning a bit extra into promenade hold (1st couple still on the left) to face the next corner anticlockwise. 4th couple stand.
- 25-28 1st couple dance another half reel of three across with their new promenading partner and end facing towards their 2nd corner position (the next corner anticlockwise). 2nd woman and 3rd man end in 1st and 4th places own side (no longer half a place in).
- 29-32 1st couple with their promenading partners each dance left hands across with 4th couple. 1st couple end by curving left into the centre to take right hands across the dance chased by 4th couple who take right hands across up and down the dance. 2nd man and 3rd woman release hold early and end in 1st and 4th places own side (opposite partners).
- 33-34 1st and 4th couples dance half right hands across. 1st couple retain right hands .
- 35-38 1st couple turn right hand all the way round moving up to end in 2nd place own side while 4th couple release hold and spiral out to 3rd place own sides.
- 39-40 All set on the sides. The progressed order is 3,1,4,2.

Music

- Suitable recording: Callum Dewar's Reel (Colin Dewar and his SDB: Special Requests Volume 7).

Diagrams (music at the bottom)

Bar 5	Bar 9	Bar 13	Bar 17	Bar 21
Bar 25	Bar 29	Bar 33	Bar 35	

Notes

This dance was written for David and Avril Quarrie on the occasion of their moving from Geneva back to the Hamburg area where they first met.

The dance includes St Andrews and St Georges cross figures then the 1st couple make a metaphorical procession around the four corners of the globe dancing with various people for a while and then moving on to a new corner. This is supposed to reflect the Scottish and English backgrounds of Avril and David respectively and their successive sojourns in Hamburg (the centre) then Chicago, Virginia, San Francisco, Geneva and finally returning to the Hamburg area, continually meeting new friends but sadly leaving old ones behind - after the old friends have been trained up to be better dancers!

The dance starts with a little broken symmetry, appropriate for a particle physicist, as the men and women do something slightly different and it ends with the 1st couple finally getting to dance more with each other, turning right hand into retirement to their new home in 2nd place while their most recent friends, the 4th couple, spiral out singly to 3rd place.

The 1st couple are the Quarries and 4th couple mostly friends and family in the Hamburg area (the centre of the set). 2nd and 3rd couples are dancers in the other corners of the world that the Quarries have lived in.